

From: Coffin, Greg
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Windows

I use Windows and am very computer savvy but I do believe there should be more competition allowed concerning Microsoft Windows. Below is an article I read today regarding tougher sanction imposed by states. It's clear to me Microsoft, being the dominant force it is, is leveraging itself in every market it can. I firmly believe that these new sanctions would be good for the computing industry.

- * Offer PC makers a version of its dominant Windows XP operating system without its instant-messaging service, media player and browser. Critics say Microsoft's inclusion of the features boxes out rival offerings. Justice's settlement requires Microsoft to let PC makers remove access to the features, not the computer code itself. That, critics fear, could encourage programmers to develop applications tailored to those features rather than those of rivals because they would be in every copy of Windows. In addition, Microsoft offers discounts to PC makers whose machines boot up quickly. That could discourage PC makers from including non-Microsoft features that could slow boot times if Microsoft features aren't removed.
- * Disclose Windows' code more thoroughly than is required by the settlement. Such disclosure would let rival products work well with Windows.
- * Include Sun Microsystems' Java programming language in Windows XP. If applications such as games and word processing are written in Java, this provision theoretically could reduce Windows' dominance.
- * Encourage Microsoft to customize its popular Office suite of applications to other operating systems, such as Linux. Officials believe this could help those systems challenge Windows.
- * Notify a special master before it obtains new technologies through acquisitions. Some state officials say Microsoft should be limited in its ability to use "ill-gotten gains" from its Windows monopoly to plow into new markets.

The states' filing is also expected to eliminate what officials consider loopholes in the settlement. For instance, it will likely include tighter restrictions to prevent Microsoft from retaliating against PC makers that ship non-Microsoft products. And the draft proposal asks for the appointment of a special master who could present evidence of violations to a judge. The settlement, by contrast, calls for an oversight committee that reports to Justice but cannot use its findings as evidence.

The proposal also specifies a less limited time horizon for the sanctions than the settlement's 5-year term, say people familiar with the matter. In June, an appeals court upheld a judge's ruling that Microsoft illegally protected its Windows monopoly but tossed out an order to break up Microsoft and ordered Kollar-Kotelly to devise new penalties. Some state prosecutors say the appeals court ruling called for much stricter sanctions than those included in the settlement. For example, the court criticized Microsoft for "commingling" the code of its browser in Windows to

fortify its monopoly. And it said Microsoft sabotaged Java by deceiving developers into using a Windows-specific version of the software.

Sincerely,

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